

Serial No.: 10/665,260
Docket No.: P21-155424M/YS
NGB.286

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 10-16 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 5, 15 and 16 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. Claims 17-21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in the interest of expediting prosecution.

It is noted that the claim amendments herein or later are not made to distinguish the invention over the prior art or narrow the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein or later should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicant reiterates that Arisaka does not teach or suggest that “*the piston and the string member are integrally molded [and] the string member branches into a plurality of portions and connects with the piston at a base end portion thereof,*” as recited in independent claim 2. Nor does Arisaka teach or suggest that “*the guide cap and the string member are integrally molded,*” as recited in independent claim 5. (Emphasis added)

Applicant further reiterates that Seiichi does not teach or suggest that “*the piston and the string member are integrally molded[,] the string member has a flat belt shape[, and] the guide hole has a flat opening and a smooth arcuate face continuing to a wide width edge of the opening,*” as recited in independent claim 3. (Emphasis added)

Additionally, Applicant reiterates that Bivens et al. does not teach or suggest that “*a reinforcing plate comprising a material which is different than a material of the piston and string member is attached to the piston to serve as a mount for receiving the helical spring*” as recited in independent claim 1. (Emphasis added)

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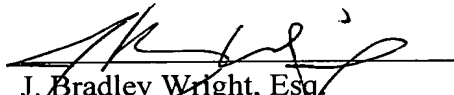
In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-6 and 10-16, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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